GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1324
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
DISEASE IN COCONUT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut plantations are severely affected by Bud Root disease in all parts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by any agency to assess the extent of crop loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the programme formulated by the Government to assist the farmers in the distressed areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Severe infestation of bud rot disease in coconut plantations has been reported in hilly tracts of Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts of northern Kerala. Low incidence of disease was reported in Wayanad, Palakkad and Malappuram districts.

(c) & (d): No detailed study has been conducted to assess the extent of crop loss. However a committee constituted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with members from Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI), Kerala Agricultural University and Coconut Development Board visited the bud rot affected areas during the month of March, 2008 and assessed the status of the disease and recommended remedial measures for its control. The committee reported that the intensity of fungal disease is high in hilly tracts due to the prevalence of high humidity.

(e): During the year 2005-06 to 2007-08 the Coconut Development Board sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.3.22 crore for adoption of Integrated Nutrients Management and Integrated Pest Management packages for disease management in 1,650 hectares in Kozhikode district.

The Board has also sanctioned a project to CPCRI during the current year under Technology Mission on Coconut at a total cost of Rs.18.27 lakh to demonstrate the integrated disease management strategy for control of bud rot disease in endemic areas.

Further the ongoing programme of the Board, namely, `Integrated Farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement` is being implemented in 2,162 hectares, on cluster basis with farmer participation in bud rot disease affected areas of Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts to demonstrate the efficacy of scientific management in improving plant health and thereby to control the recurring incidence of bud rot in the area with a financial allocation of Rs.3.3 crore. Implementation of the scheme in contiguous areas on cluster basis ensures timely adoption of disease management practices.